

I am opposed Verizon's petition to eliminate the requirement for Local Number Portability, as called for in Docket No. 01-184. I believe that the public's interest can best be served by allowing an individual to keep their cellular telephone number when switching cellular providers. By not allowing number portability, the need to change telephone numbers when changing wireless carriers becomes a means of restricting competition. In my own case, as a consumer and small business owner, changing wireless telephone numbers will require me to contact all of my personal friends and relatives, a number of service entities, such as home security companies, my entire client base, as well as reprinting business cards and stationery. This is an effort I'm not willing to make for a marginal improvement in coverage or rates, even though I know another wireless carrier has a feature that Verizon doesn't offer that would enhance my business. As wireless telephony becomes more prevalent, the lack of number portability will result in poorer service, not better service as Verizon claims, as the incentive to improve their network or customer service decreases as the customers become more captive. If they provide the superior service they want us to believe they do, they will benefit from number portability, as disgruntled consumers flee their present carriers and switch to Verizon.

Being a Verizon customer, I find it hypocritical that they fought so hard to prove they were competitive when it came to their being allowed to enter the long distance telephone market and now they are fighting just as hard to reduce the competitiveness of the wireless industry